

Tel: 32 2 508 28 96  
Fax: 32 2 511 09 18  
E MAIL  
anne-marie.benoit@usda.gov

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**USDA-APHIS-IS REGION IV**  
**US MISSION TO THE EUROPEAN UNION**  
Boulevard du Regent, 27  
1000 Brussels, Belgium

# *Facsimile*

To: ~~Mr. Gary Colgrove~~  
@Fax: (301) 734.32.22  
from: Anne Marie Benoit APHIS  
USDA-APHIS-IS  
Brussels, Belgium  
Date: Friday, December 8, 2000  
Pages: 16, including this page  
Subject: African Swine Fever in Portugal

Please find enclosed the EC update on the situation as regards the outbreak of African Swine Fever in Portugal.

We hope to have been of assistance to you .

Best regards,



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**

HEALTH & CONSUMER PROTECTION DIRECTORATE-GENERAL  
Directorate E - Food Safety: plant health, animal health and welfare, International questions  
Director

Brussels,  
Sanco E3/PD/mah D (2000) 31774

*Please fax  
to Colgrove  
(share with  
Lisa Ferguson)*

**FAX**

<b>To:</b>	Ms Mary Revelt Agricultural Counsellor US Mission to the EC	<b>Telephone:</b>	02 508 22 22
		<b>Fax:</b>	02 511 09 18
<b>From:</b>	Alejandro Checchi Lang E L 86 7/2	<b>Telephone:</b>	(+32-2)299 15 90
		<b>Fax:</b>	(+32-2)296 27 92
<b>Number of pages:</b>	1 + enclosures		
<b>Subject:</b>	African Swine Fever in Portugal		

**Message:**

Further to our request at the Joint Management Committee meeting in July and with my letter to Mr Torres of 24 October 2000 for a withdrawal of the US import restrictions related to the outbreak of African swine fever in Southern Portugal in 1999, please find enclosed EC update on the situation as regards the outbreak.

I should be grateful if you would forward the documents to APHIS as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Alejandro CHECCHI LANG

c.c.: MM Van Goethe, Nymand-Christensen, Laddomada (Sanco)  
M. Niederberger (EC delegation Washington)



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
HEALTH & CONSUMER PROTECTION DIRECTORATE-GENERAL  
Directorate E - Food Safety, plant health, animal health and welfare, international questions  
E3 - International food, veterinary and phytosanitary questions

### African swine fever in Portugal

#### Request by the European Commission

#### for withdrawal of the trade restrictions adopted by APHIS/USDA

The situation as regards African swine fever (ASF) in Portugal was reviewed at the Standing Veterinary Committee (SVC) held on 21 November 2000.

The Portuguese delegation provided data concerning:

- the measures adopted to eradicate the outbreak of ASF which was confirmed in the Region of Alentejo (Southern Portugal) on 15 November 1999, which included a total stamping-out policy of all pig holdings in area of 3 km-radius around the infected holding. No further outbreaks occurred afterwards;
- the overall results of the clinical and epidemiological investigations and of the virological and serological tests carried out on domestic pigs in Southern Portugal;
- the overall results of the serological survey carried out on wild boars in Southern Portugal;
- the results of the specific investigations carried out on the ticks of the genus *Ornithodoros* to clarify their role as potential vector of ASF virus.

The results of the above tests and investigations are summarised in the attached report. They seem to confirm that *Ornithodoros* ticks probably played an important role in virus transmission to domestic pigs, but they also show that ASF has been effectively controlled and eradicated from the domestic and the wild pig populations.

Portuguese Authorities also declared that they will continue to take ASF control and surveillance measures in the Alentejo Region, including:

- monitoring and testing of domestic pigs of the *Alentejano* breed;
- testing of feral pigs (wild boar);
- measures to ensure that old premises where *Ornithodoros* ticks may be present are not used to keep pigs.

The SVC agreed to lift the restrictions on movement and trade of pigs and pig products which were still in place in some areas of Southern Portugal, in accordance with Commission Decision 1999/789/EC of 3 December 1999, as last amended by Decision 2000/382/EC. The provisions of Decision 1999/789/EC elapsed on 30 November 2000.

In light of the above, the European Commission requests APHIS/USDA to rapidly take all the necessary steps to withdraw the trade restrictions adopted in relation to ASF in Portugal (Final rule: Change in disease status of Portugal because of African swine fever, docket No. 99-096-2), taking also into account the provisions of article 6 of the Agreement between the EC and the US on sanitary measures to protect public and animal health in trade in live animals and animal products.

To further support this request the European Commission wishes also to stress the following points:

- the measures adopted by the Portuguese authorities and the Community have shown their full efficacy in preventing any spread of disease from the area concerned;
- the quick and effective reaction of the Portuguese authorities to the ASF outbreak in November 1999 was confirmed by an inspection report of the Food and Veterinary Office<sup>1</sup>;
- detailed information on the occurrence of ASF in Portugal and on the measures adopted to control this disease had been already sent to APHIS/USDA on several previous occasions;
- the OIE Animal Health Code states that a country may be considered free from ASF when it has been shown that ASF has not been present for 12 months if a stamping-out policy is practised and it has been demonstrated that the disease is absent from the domestic or wild pig population.

Enclosure: Report

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<sup>1</sup> The FVO report is available on the web site:

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/inspections/vi/reports/portugal/vi\\_rfp\\_port\\_1244-1999\\_en.pdf](http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/inspections/vi/reports/portugal/vi_rfp_port_1244-1999_en.pdf)

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# AFRICAN SWINE FEVER IN PORTUGAL

Information on the evolution of the disease  
Standing Veterinary Committee

NOVEMBER 2000

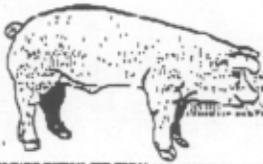
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**PORTUGAL - AFRICAN SWINE FEVER**

NOVEMBER 2000

**1. - Protection and Surveillance Zones ( 3 - 10Km)  
around the outbreak.**

- *Protection Zone:* After depopulation of the herds, cleaning, disinfection and desinsectization, no introduction of pig is allowed until Decision of the Competent Authority (DGV).
- *Surveillance Zone:* All pigs from all pigs herds were sampled for ASF diagnosis twice with interval of 30 days. Movement of pigs out of the zone only allowed after case by case evaluation by the Regional Veterinary Services.

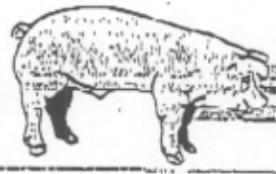
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PORTUGAL - AFRICAN SWINE FEVER

NOVEMBER 2000

2. - Surveillance Programme  
(approved on the SVC of 24/11/99)

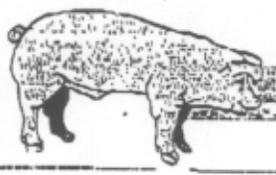
On the basis of the Surveillance Programme several thousands of pigs were sampled and farms were inspected. No antibodies or virus were detected.

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SAMPLING IN ABATTOIRS

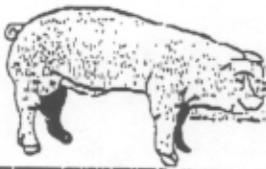
REGION	N° OF SAMPLES	RESULTS	
		Antibodies	Virus
ALENTEJO	11.317	0	0
ALGARVE	6.495	0	0
TOTAL	17.812	0	0

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**PORTUGAL - AFRICAN SWINE FEVER**

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SAMPLING IN PRE-MOVEMENT

REGION	N.º OF SAMPLES	N.º OF HERD	RESULTS	
			Antibodies	Virus
ALENTEJO	72.297	865	0	0
ALGARVE	6.143	160	0	0
TOTAL	78.440	1000	0	0

SAMPLING IN THE SURVEILLANCE ZONE

N.º OF SAMPLES	N.º OF HERDS	RESULTS	
		Antibodies	Virus
8.135	159	0	0



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SAMPLING OF THE ALENTEJANO BREED OF PIGS

N.º OF SAMPLES	N.º OF HERDS	RESULTS	
		Antibodies	Virus
15.850	401	0	0

SAMPLING OF WILD BOARS

(NOVEMBER 1999 - OCTOBER 2000)

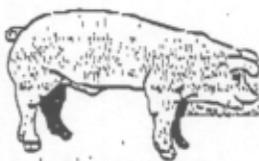
REGION	N.º OF SAMPLES	RESULTS	
		Antibodies	Virus
ALENTEJO	1781	0	0
ALGARVE	259	0	0
TOTAL	2040	0	0

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NOVEMBER 2000

RISK EVALUATION IN PIG HERDS  
WITH PREVIOUS OUTBREAK OF ASF

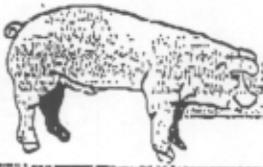
1. - Selection of pig herds from existing data on the Regional Veterinary Services.
2. - Visit to the farms by a Brigade of the Central/Local Veterinary Services.
3. - Epidemiological Inquiry and Inspection of premises.
4. - Evaluation of the Epidemiological Inquiries and selection of pig premises for the purpose of tick collection: Done by the Central/Local Veterinary Services and Faculty of Veterinary Medicine.
5. - Visit to the selected premises, setting of traps for tick collection.
6. - Laboratory tests on ticks collected: National Reference Laboratory (LNIV - Lisbon) and Faculty of Veterinary Medicine - Dep. of Infectious/Contagious Diseases.
7. - Laboratory Results.
8. - Animal Health preventive measures on the premises:
  - Destruction of premises with ASF virus isolation in ticks collected.

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**PORTUGAL - AFRICAN SWINE FEVER**

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**RESULT OF RISK EVALUATION  
IN PIG HERDS WITH PREVIOUS  
OUTBREAK OF ASF.**

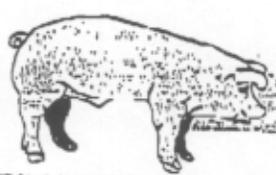
N.º of Herds	N.º of Herds Selected for Tick Collection	N.º of Herds with Ticks Collected	N.º of Herds with Virus Isolation in Ticks
84	32	13	2

- The herds with virus isolation in ticks were:
- Outbreak 1/99
- 1 serological positive herd on the Surveillance Zone, with ASF virus isolation negative.
- The Laboratory work isn't finished and some lots of ticks collected are still waiting for tests results.



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INSPECTION ON PIG FARM

NOVEMBER 2000

N° OF FARM INSPECTED	INFORMATION
698	Done by official veterinarians to see the health status of pigs with elaboration of Epidemiological inquiries

SURVEILLANCE PROGRAMME

Inspection of pig farms ( alentejano breed ) with previous information of occurrence of outbreak or risk factors ( Last 12 years )

N° of Herds	Localization	Remarks
47	Alentejo *	Epidemiological Inquiry under evaluation in the purpose of tick collection

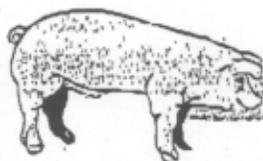
- \* - Viana do Alentejo - 13
- Sousel - 1
- Crato - 1
- Portel - 2
- Elvas - 1
- Marvão - 1
- Barrancos - 11
- Moura - 2
- Mértola - 1
- Almodôvar - 13

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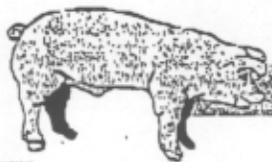
**HERDS WITH ANTIBODIES OF A.S.F.**

Nº OF HERDS	LOCALIZATION	SITUATION AT PRESENT	REMARKS
4	Protection Zone - 3 Surveillance Zone - 1	No pigs after depopulation	Through the I.E. it was found animal and human contact with the outbreak farm



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HERDS WITH VIRUS ISOLATION

N.º OF HERDS	LOCALIZATION	SITUATION AT PRESENT	REMARKS
2	Protection Zone	No pigs after depopulation	Out break n.º 1/99

- Ticks collected – Laboratorial studies not yet finish

VIRUS CHARACTERISATION

Restriction enzyme analysis performed at The National Reference Laboratory - LNIV (Lisbon) shown that the virus isolated from pigs and ticks from the outbreak farm is closely related to the Lisbon /60.

Lisbon /60 was previously isolated mainly in outbreaks located South of Tagus river during 1960-1993, while Mafra 86 was isolated mainly in outbreaks located North of Tagus river.



PORTUGAL - AFRICAN SWINE FEVER

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IRREGULARITIES ON THE ANIMAL HEALTH MEASURES  
PROTECTION AND SURVEILLANCE ZONES

Two irregularities were detected by the Veterinary Services related with pig owners on the Protection and Surveillance Zone.

NUMBER	TYPE	LOCALIZATION	SITUATION	ACTION TAKEN
1	Animal Movement	Surveillance Zone	Animals taken to abattoir during restriction period	Apprehension of carcasses; Proceedings related with penalties to owner in progress
1	Animal Movement	Protection Zone	Animals from Protection to Surveillance Zone before depopulation	Slaughter and destruction of pigs; Proceedings related with penalties to owner in progress